

MAUI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Office of the Chancellor

CC: 96-45

January 31, 2005

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RE: Comments in Support of Petition for Waiver

As Chancellor of Maui Community College, I and other members of the college have had discussions with Sandwich Isles Communications to explore our interests in applying telecommunications solutions to the education and health needs of Native Hawaiians on Hawaiian Home Lands. I have been greatly encouraged by our potential collaboration and, therefore, am writing in support of the Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. petition for waiver that would define Hawaiian Home Lands as the study area for Sandwich Isles Communications.

Maui Community College (MCC) has responsibility for education centers on the Islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai. Our centers, however, are not adequately situated to service the mostly rural communities on each of the islands. For years we had been searching for ways to reach the native Hawaiian population on Hawaiian Home Lands and meet their education needs through broadband distance learning opportunities. We sincerely believe that our search for distance learning delivery solutions for native Hawaiian communities can only be met by partnering with Sandwich Isles Communications as they are serving or will be serving communities that were not served before.

Given the technology today, the bandwidth necessary to deliver interactive, high definition quality educational programs directly into the rural and remote HHL communities and residential homes is profoundly potent. The college's distance education solutions currently utilizes interactive television system, a cable channel, online, and streamed video solutions. We anticipate that our telehealth services from our campus services that have already demonstrated success with Native Hawaiian populations will expand with additional access to the population with the highest incidence of diabetes. Additionally the combination and integration of learning management systems with more sophisticated and complex applications of statewide course offerings into HHL homes and higher resolution video offers new promise to reach students and families. Accordingly, our appetite for bandwidth is predictably ravenous.

Sandwich Isles Communications is deploying broadband to HHL communities,. We are excited with the prospect of realizing a long-standing vision to extend our educational reach into Hawaiian Home Lands. Sandwich Isles Communications should be allowed to continue focusing on serving HHL communities. They are providing the precise rural service intended by the RUS program. I strongly urge an expedited approval, so that HHL residents will have access to interactive education programs within their communities and within their homes in the very near future. Thank you.


Clyde M. Sakamoto
Chancellor

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